

Dover N.H. Septem^r 11. 1846

Miss Weston

I am well aware that the charge of incivility and neglect well lies against me for not answering at an earlier day, the very polite and flattering invitation which I received from you, dated the 6th ult. I could write you an excellent apology, but fearing that you would say, as has been said before, that he who is good at an apology, is generally good for nothing else, I forbear, lest I should thereby fall still lower in your estimation by my excellent apology than I already have, by my silence.

The truth is, this is an eating, drinking, every day sort of a world that we live in, and I continue to seize that portion of bread & butter which may suffice for the mouths of myself, wife and two children, by the practice, and practices of the law, and the law breakers. I have been attending a session of our Court of Common Pleas, which was in session when your letter reached me. Our Court endeavor to prevent robbing & theft on a small scale, so that

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our National Government may have an unobscured monopoly of such acts in their present magnificent and glorious career. I greatly fear that it will not be in my power to comply with your request to attend your tea party, though it would afford me very great pleasure so to do. I am not able at this time to determine positively whether I can be at Theymorth at the time you mention or not, so you must not depend upon my being there, nor make any calculation of the kind. I should rejoice greatly to be there, but I am so situated that I am not able to command my own time.

I have been trying to arouse the people of Maine to a sense of their own dangers and duties, but I do not know how far I have succeeded. In fact I find after all, that I am but a politician, looking for the developments of public opinion such as the ballot box gives us, and trusting mainly to that source for an effectual and practical reformation of the people. I do not mean to be understood by this as in the slightest degree disparaging the efforts made in other directions, & by those entertaining different opinions. I know that men and women of far different opinions and who have a right to claim the merit of being the pioneers in this campaign of Humanity have done a work and are now doing a work in this behalf that throws in the

shade the puny efforts of those who in these latter days
come in to reap the fruit of what those others have sown:
I know how mean it must appear to such to witness
the fruits of their exalted, self-sacrificing efforts,
all, or partially, converted to the base purposes
of party politics. I did not mean when I began
to write you a sermon or moral essay, but merely
to thank you for your very polite invitation,
and to say to you that it was uncertain whether I
could accept it, or rather that it was all but certain
that I could not.

With much respect
I am very truly your
obliged friend.
John P. Hale

1888

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst. in relation to the proposed purchase of the land for the proposed road. I am very sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time, but I will endeavor to do so as soon as possible. I will also endeavor to give you a more complete statement of the facts in this matter.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours,
John A. ...

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